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***NEWS From:***

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

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For Immediate Release  
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**Rep. Honda Statement on Medical Students  
Suspected of Terrorist Plotting**

I am concerned with the reports that Larkin Community Hospital has denied Ayman Gheith, Kambiz Butt, and Omar Choudhary placement in Larkin Community Hospital's medical training program.

As you know, Ms. Eunice Stone, a concerned citizen, said she overheard the three medical students discussing terror plans in a diner in Cartersville, Georgia. On this tip, authorities detained the three students on Friday, September 13 for 17 hours. Authorities verified their identities, searched their vehicles, and released them without any charges.

Ms. Stone did the right thing in reporting what she thought were suspicious activities. In these times of uncertainty, we must all be vigilant. I am proud of the coordination between law enforcement agencies. They did their due diligence and questioned the individuals.

However, I am concerned with Larkin's termination of the students' internship. The students, two of which are American citizens, were not charged with a crime and cooperated with the authorities.

In America, our Constitution provides that all citizens are innocent until proven guilty. My office has been in communication with Ross University Medical School's president, Neil Simon, as well as a top deputy to Dr. Jack Michel, CEO of Larkin Community Hospital. I urged them to give the students the opportunity to continue their lives unfettered by their detainment, given the lack of any evidence against them.

Our Constitution is rarely tested in times of tranquility, but is severely tested in times of tension, turmoil, and tragedy. We must remember to embrace the principles of our Constitution—our contract for democracy and freedom. We must fight and win the war on terrorism—without waging war on our most sacred ideals.